Appendix A: Glossary

Aggregate Back-up and Recovery Services (ABARS)

The Aggregate Back-up and Recovery System is a facility used to back-up and restore application related data sets as one group. *(Source: MVS user guide from the WTS website)*

Advanced Function Printing (AFP)

AFP is a printer driver for the high quality Xerox MICR (Magnetic Ink Character Recognition) printers at BC Mail Plus (BCMP). It is an IBM product and is customized for BCMP printing functionality.

Automated Fund Transfer or AFT System (AFT)

AFT is the application used by Banking and Cash Management (BCM) to process and release Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) and Pre-Authorized Debit transaction files for ministries, agencies and Crown corporations. It consists of two modules:

1) Automated Fund Transfer System — processes and releases AFT payments, and
2) Payment Recall System — processes AFT payment recalls.

Banking and Cash Management Branch (BCM)

The Banking and Cash Management Branch at Provincial Treasury (Ministry of Finance) manages the Province's banking and financial arrangements and delivers a broad range of banking services. This includes cash management, bank payment processing, revenue consolidation and electronic banking services to ministries, Crown corporations and public sector agencies. *(Source: BCM website)*

Bank Reconciliation System (BRS)

Information for the bank reconciliation performed by Corporate Accounting Services is generated from the bank reconciliation system (BRS)—based on input from the cheque management system (CHQ), corporate accounting system (CAS) and financial institutions regarding cheques issued, cheques paid, and cheques outstanding from previous periods.

Corporate Accounting System (CAS) Oracle

This is the corporate financial system for the Province of British Columbia using the Oracle Financials application. It is a centralized, integrated off-the-shelf financial system that has been tailored to suit the requirements of provincial government ministries and agencies. *(Source: Corporate Accounting Services website and Introduction to CAS Oracle Financials user manual)*

CAS Generic Interface (CGI)

CGI is a mechanism that ministries and agencies can use to batch load their financial data into CAS Oracle. It enables Ministry Financial Information Systems (MFIS) and Ministry Program Financial Systems (MPFS), referred to as "feeder systems", to interface financial transactions into CAS Oracle. *(Source: Corporate Accounting Services website)*

Appendix A

Corporate Human Resource Information and Payroll System (CHIPS)

CHIPS is a corporate system of the Provincial government that assumes the responsibility of maintaining human resource information, tracking employee leave and processing payroll for government employees. Software currently being used is Peoplesoft 8.9.

Cheque Management System (CHQ)

CHQ is an application which tracks location and status of cheques—a database used to record cashed cheque information, stop payments and returned undeliverable/unclaimed cheques. It receives information from CUCBC and provides daily and monthly files of paid cheques to Corporate Accounting Services.

Credit Union Central of British Columbia (CUCBC)

CUCBC is the financial institution that holds the main disbursement accounts of the Province of British Columbia.

Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)

An EFT process is a widely used technical solution deployed by corporations throughout the world to transmit payment instructions to financial institutions for payment of employees, companies and/or other entities. *(Source: ISACA website article "Preventing EFT Fraud" by John E. Humphries Jr., CISA, CISSP, GSEC Volume 4, 2003)*

Financial Institutions Commission (FICOM)

FICOM is a regulatory agency of the provincial Ministry of Finance and is responsible for administering 10 statutes that regulate the pension, financial services and real estate sectors in British Columbia. The primary focus of this regulation is to ensure that:

- Institutions and pension plans in these sectors remain solvent;
- Market conduct requirements for these sectors are respected;
- Unsuitable individuals do not participate in financial service markets; and
- Through the Credit Union Deposit Insurance Corporation (CUDIC), insure credit union deposits and non-equity shares up to the maximum defined by regulation ($100,000 per separate deposit) per credit union. *(Source: FICOM website)*

File Transfer Protocol (FTP)

FTP is a protocol used for exchanging files over the Internet. It is most commonly used to download a file from a server using the Internet or to upload a file to a server. *(Source: www.webopedia.com)*

Appendix A

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a written agreement, often used as the basis to discuss and agree upon mutual expectations. An MOU does not create legal or binding obligations, but is intended to provide a framework for a positive and co-operative working relationship between the parties. *(Source: Administrative Justice Office website)*

Multiple Virtual Storage (MVS)

MVS is the operating system for older IBM mainframes. It was first introduced in 1974 and continues to be used, though it has been largely superseded by IBM's newer operating system, OS/390. IBM's mainframe operating system is now called z/OS. *(Source: www.webopedia.com)*

Operating System (OS)

The operating system is the most important program that runs on a computer. Every general-purpose computer must have an operating system to run other programs. Operating systems perform basic tasks, such as recognizing input from the keyboard, sending output to the display screen, keeping track of files and directories on the disk, and controlling peripheral devices such as disk drives and printers. *(Source: www.webopedia.com)*

Resource Access Control Facility (RACF)

RACF or Resource Access Control Facility is an IBM developed software product employed to protect data and systems from accidental or intentional threats to confidentiality, integrity, and availability. This is achieved by controlling access to the individual resources found on the system. It provides complete auditing facilities to track and report on the activities of users and datasets. *(Source: Introduction to RACF users manual prepared by Common IT Services, now called WTS or Workplace Technology Services)*

SPAN/BC

SPAN/BC is a shared private data communications network for the Provincial Government that connects government offices throughout the province to a core (backbone) network and the Internet. It enables connectivity and electronic service delivery between the BC Government, the broader public sector, the business community and the citizens of the province. *(Source: SPAN/BC Overview)*

TELUS

The Province has comprehensive service agreement for MVS services with IBM.
IBM subcontracted the services to TES (TELUS Enterprise Solutions), now called "TELUS ITI" (TELUS Information Technology Infrastructure).

UNIX

UNIX is a popular multi-user, multi-tasking operating system developed at Bell Labs in the early 1970s. It was designed to be a small, flexible system used exclusively by programmers. *(Source: www.webopedia.com)*

Appendix A

Workplace Technology Services (WTS)

WTS provides IT infrastructure services for the BC government and the broader public sector. These include: data centre services, desktop support and service desks, voice and data networks, electronic messaging and directories, applications and service integration, and security/virus protection. *(Source: WTS website)*

Appendix B: Office of the Auditor General Reports Issued During Fiscal 2008/2009

Report 1 – April 2008

An Audit of Joint Solution Procurement and the Revenue Management Project

Report 2 – April 2008

Strengthening Accountability in British Columbia: Trends and Opportunities in Performance Reporting

Report 3 – May 2008

Management of Aboriginal Child Protection Services

Report 4 – May 2008

Managing Government's Payment Processing

This report and others are available on our website at: http://www.bcauditor.com